

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/646,131

Examiner

Manglesh M. Patel

Applicant(s)

PATTERSON ET AL.

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to (Amendment) April 7, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-10,12,15,16,32,35-37 and 39-41.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Murrell W. Blackburn on June 22, 2006.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

3. Please change "4" to "5" on line 10 page 7 of the specification.
4. Please change "4" to "5" on line 23 page 7 of the specification.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for automatically creating a list in an electronic spreadsheet, comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a user request for selecting a cell range in the electronic spreadsheet for displaying data, the cell range including one or more cells in one or more columns;
 - identifying a list range for the selected cell range in the electronic spreadsheet, wherein identifying a list range for the selected cell range comprises:
 - determining the number of cells in the selected cell range;
 - if the selected cell range contains two or more cells, then
 - identifying the list range as the selected cell range; and
 - if the selected cell range contains exactly one cell, then identifying the list range based on the location of the cell in a current region of the electronic spreadsheet;

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determining a header row for the list range, wherein determining a header row for the list range comprises:

determining whether the list range includes a field name for each column in the cell range; and

if the identified list range does not include any field names, then automatically generating a field name for each column in the cell range, wherein the automatically generated field names comprise the header row for the list range; and generating a border for surrounding the list range to create the list.

Claims 2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each field name is unique.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the list range includes user-generated data.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the list range includes a blank row for inserting data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
determining whether the selected cell range includes a user total row for calculating a plurality of aggregation functions for the user-generated data; and
if the selected cell range includes a user total row, then excluding the user total row from the list range.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the user total row is one row adjacent to the bottom of the at list range.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the user total row comprises at least one cell for calculating the plurality of aggregation functions.

10. (Currently amended) A method for automatically expanding a list in an electronic spreadsheet, the method comprising:

determining that at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to the list, wherein determining that at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to the list further comprises:

determining that the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a header row in the list, the header row comprising at least one field name; and

determining that the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a data row in the list, the data row comprising at least one cell containing data;

automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell, wherein automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell comprises automatically expanding the list to include a new column containing the at least one previously blank newly edited cell;

if the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a header row in the list, then determining whether a data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell duplicates an existing field name in the header row in the list;

if the data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is identical to an existing field name in the header row in the list, then changing the data entry to a unique field name;

if the data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is not identical to an existing field name in the header row in the list, then assigning the data entry as a field name for the new column; and

if the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a data row in the list, then automatically generating a field name for the new column.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell comprises automatically expanding the list to include a new row containing the at least one previously blank newly edited cell.

Claims 13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein determining that at least one previously blank previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to the list comprises determining that the previously blank newly edited cell is to a right side of the list.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the list is structured data.

Claims 17-31 (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for displaying an automatically created list in an electronic spreadsheet, comprising the steps of:

receiving a user request for selecting a cell range in the electronic spreadsheet, the cell range including one or more cells in one or more columns for displaying data;

identifying a list range for the selected cell range in the electronic spreadsheet, wherein identifying a list range for the selected cell range comprises:

determining the number of cells in the selected cell range;

if the selected cell range contains two or more cells, then identifying the list range as the selected cell range; and

if the selected cell range contains exactly one cell, then identifying the list range based on the location of the cell in a current region of the electronic spreadsheet;

determining a header row for the list range, wherein determining a header row for the list range comprises:

determining whether the list range includes a field name for each column in the cell range; and

if the identified list range does not include any field names, then automatically generating a field name for each column in the cell range, wherein the automatically generated field names comprise the header row for the list range;

generating a border for surrounding the list range to create the list; and displaying the automatically created list on the display device.

Claims 33-34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the list range comprises a blank row for inserting data.

36. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 32, further comprising:

determining whether the selected cell range includes a user total row for calculating a plurality of aggregation functions for the user-generated data; and

if the selected cell range includes a total row, then excluding the user total row from the list range.

37. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for automatically expanding a list in an electronic spreadsheet, comprising the steps of:

determining that at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to the list, wherein determining that at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to the list further comprises:

determining that the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a header row in the list, the header row comprising at least one field name;

determining that the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a data row in the list, the data row comprising at least one cell containing data;

if the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a header row in the list, then determining whether a data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell duplicates an existing field name in the header row in the list;

if the data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is identical to an existing field name in the header row in the list, then changing the data entry to a unique field name;

if the data entry in the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is not identical to an existing field name in the header row in the list, then assigning the data entry as a field name for the new column; and

if the at least one previously blank newly edited cell is adjacent to a data row in the list, then automatically generating a field name for the new column; and

automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell, wherein automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell comprises automatically expanding the list to include a new column containing the at least one previously blank newly edited cell.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein automatically expanding the list to include the at least one previously blank newly edited cell comprises automatically expanding the list to include a new row containing the at least one previously blank newly edited cell.

40. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein data range references in cells in existing list rows are automatically adjusted to include cells in the new column.

41. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein data range references in cells in existing list columns are automatically updated to include cells in the new row.

Claims 42-43. (Canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1, 4-10, 12, 15-16, 32, 35-37 and 39-41 are allowed.
6. The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest features recited in the amended claims.
7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The application has recited in independent claims 1 and 32 describes automatically generating field names for each column in the cell range that include the header row in the list range. This feature is not taught by Bauchot (U.S. Pub 2001/0007988). Bauchot instead describes generating fieldname in a cell that is not a header row, thus the cell A4 in fig 3C populated with the term "United Kingdom" does not comprise a header row for the list range. Independent claims 10 and 37 describe automatically expanding the list to include a previously blank newly edited cell. Bauchot fails to disclose this feature.

Furthermore, the claimed feature would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in view of the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manglesh M. Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-5937. The examiner can normally be reached on M, W 6 am-3 pm T, TH 6 am-2pm, Fr 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Manglesh M. Patel

Patent Examiner

June 22, 2006



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER